

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 988
By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ms. Christina Ivey upon her receiving the National Committee on Adult Basic Education Learner of the Year Award for Hickman County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles to achieve personal and professional success; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Ms. Christina Ivey, who was recently named winner of the National Committee on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Learner of the Year Award for Hickman County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ivey faced and overcame numerous obstacles in order to receive her GED in September 2003; and

WHEREAS, in June 2002, Christina Ivey found the inner courage and determination to leave an abusive marriage; with her two small children, she used this first step as a springboard to change her life; and

WHEREAS, realizing the importance of education, Ms. Ivey enrolled in a local adult education program in July 2002; and

WHEREAS, her classmates and teachers found Christina Ivey to be a dedicated and focused student; although she struggled in math, Ms. Ivey maintained a positive attitude, rooted in the principles of hard work and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, with these tremendous changes in her life, Christina Ivey felt that she was on the road to personal and professional success, but she did not realize that another obstacle would threaten her progress; and

WHEREAS, in September 2002, Ms. Ivey learned that she had a large uterine tumor that needed to be removed; relying upon her great faith, she faced this sickness with courage; and

WHEREAS, in November, the tumor was removed, and Ms. Ivey remains cancer-free today; and

WHEREAS, demonstrating an admirable spirit of resilience and dedication, Christina Ivey resumed adult education classes and passed her GED exams with exceptionally high scores; and

WHEREAS, triumphant in her quest for basic education, Ms. Ivey was not content with just receiving her GED; she began studying for the college entrance exam in order to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, in September 2003, Christina Ivey celebrated three memorable events: she graduated as valedictorian of her GED class; she celebrated her triumph over cancer which had threatened her the previous year; and she began classes at Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, Christina Ivey willingly shares the story of her tragedies and triumphs with others in the hopes of motivating and inspiring them; she has spoken to law enforcement officers and battered women about her experience as a victim of domestic abuse; and

WHEREAS, others have recognized the talent and potential of Christina Ivey; she was awarded the "Martha Brown Memorial Scholarship" from the Tennessee Association for Adult and Community Education and a scholarship from the Sunshine Lady Foundation; the accompanying scholarships for these awards have provided Christina Ivey with the necessary funds to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, the embodiment of patience, persistence, and perseverance, Ms. Christina Ivey is currently in her second semester of college, pursuing her degree in Foreign Language with a minor in International Affairs; and

WHEREAS, she hopes to someday serve as an interpreter for an international agency or organization; her perfect grade point average will certainly help her to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, to maintain her 4.0 GPA and to mother her children, Christina wakes at 4:30 a.m. every day to study before her children wake for school; and

WHEREAS, in her valedictorian speech at her GED graduation, Christina closed her address with a tearful tribute to her four children; and

WHEREAS, motivated and inspired by her children, Christina, in turn, serves as an exemplary role model for her children; and

WHEREAS, the impeccable character that Christina Ivey shows merits special recognition; her determination and her ability to rise above any obstacle in pursuit of her goals deserves the commendation of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Ms. Christina Ivey upon being named the National Committee on Adult Basic Education (COABE) Learner of the Year for Hickman County, commend her on her dedication and drive to excellence, and extend our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.